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NSC BRIEFING

INDONESIA

- I. Central government troops maintained their pressure on the dissidents during the past week although there are indications that in some areas they are running low on supplies.

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- II. In North Sumatra, government forces are consolidating control of the territory around Medan

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[REDACTED]

The dissidents have about 100 troops of about platoon strength mainly just south of Lake Toba, and retain some capability for guerrilla activity.

H. The military commander in Tapanuli ^{province,} apparently is offering the dissidents sanctuary in his territory and refusing to follow orders from Medan to attack.

III. In Central Sumatra, government forces have reached ^{the foothills of the mountains,} ~~hilly terrain~~ in their overland drive toward Padang and Bukittinggi.

A. As government troops continue along the Rengat-Padang and Pakanbaru-Bukittinggi roads they are entering territory more favorable to the defenders



1. The dissident commander's strategy apparently has been to conserve his troops ~~[strength]~~ for major resistance in this rugged terrain.

B. Government troops encountered increased resistance but now claim to have reached Sungailangsai and to have cut the main road to South Sumatra in the Taluk area.

C. Government forces were also held up for several days at Bangkinang, where dissident troops destroyed a bridge.

1. The dissidents have now withdrawn from this point and government troops are continuing on towards Pajakumbuh.
2. However, the dissidents are planning to resist further advances along this route.

iv Col. Kawilirang, who left his military attache post in Washington two weeks ago, is ~~reportedly~~ going to Padang to assume command

of all dissident forces

A. His present assessment of the dissident military situation *after a visit to Menado in North Celebes* is one of guarded optimism.

v In North Celebes, the dissidents, with some 3,300 ^{armed} men, are in a relatively strong position.

A. In late March the dissidents attacked government troops in the Donggala area.

B. Shortly thereafter the government landed two battalions in the area ^{and} [with the result that] [redacted] 25X1
Donggala and Palu are now in government hands.

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1. The dissidents claim, however, that they control the area immediately to the south.
- [REDACTED]

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VII. Anti-SEATO and anti-American student demonstrations in Djakarta and Surabaya continue, presumably under Communist direction.

- A. These have been small and orderly, with the government keeping close watch on them to prevent them from getting out of hand.
- [REDACTED]

VIII. In the field of bloc aid, the central government has completed arrangements with Czechoslovakia for delivery of at least eleven Soviet IL-14 transport aircraft

by Czech pilots to Djakarta via Moscow, Siberia, Peiping, Rangoon, and Medan.

B. They will almost certainly be pressed into service against the dissidents as soon as possible.

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